

Says strong economy starts with a strong education for our children

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Tim Walz announced that St. Peter Schools Superintendent Dr. Jeff Olson will be his guest at the President's State of the Union address on Tuesday, February 12th.

Dr. Olson was named [2013 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year](#) and is a candidate for National Superintendent of the Year.

"While our economy is beginning to turn the corner, we're not there yet. We must continue advocating for policies that create opportunity and prosperity for our children, and that starts in the classroom," said Walz, a former geography teacher at Mankato West High School.

"In visiting with countless southern Minnesota business owners over the past two years, the number one thing I hear from them is that they need a strong, educated workforce in order to grow and expand. Dr. Olson knows what it takes to prepare our children for a prosperous future and is a national leader in his field, which is why I invited him to be my guest for the President's State of the Union Address."

Superintendent Olson has been with Saint Peter Public Schools since 1975, and has served as superintendent since 2003. With an enrollment of 1,893 students, the Saint Peter Public School District is located 60 miles southwest of Minneapolis, in the Minnesota River Valley. The district serves students in five locations and is an AdVancEd District Accredited School System, the first district in Minnesota to receive district-level accreditation.

"Ensuring our children are able to seize opportunity and live the American Dream is critically important to our nation's future," said Dr. Olson. **"Our students need a safe, orderly and caring environment that empowers them to learn and prepare for fulfilling and meaningful careers. Having spent nearly two decades in the classroom, Congressman Walz knows how important investments in education are to our country's economic future and I am honored and excited to attend the State of the Union with him."**

Superintendent Olson received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, his master's degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato and his bachelor's degree from Concordia College in Moorhead. Before becoming Superintendent for the Saint Peter Public School District, he served as the curriculum director and high school principal. He is happily married to his wife Judy, a 5th grade teacher, has three children (Travis, Brent, and Stefanie), and 10 grandchildren.

###